On houseplants

By Shirley W. Walton
Extension Agent

Add Life to Houseplants

Houseplants are an integral part of many decorating schemes. Not only are they beautiful in themselves, but the accessories that go with them can be very special. These include pots, domes, windowsill trays and plant-hangers. To maintain the beauty of a plant display, proper care of plant accessories is a must.

Protect furniture and floors by always keeping a pot in a saucer. The exteriors of both, particularly the bottom, should be wiped clean. Sand and dirt stuck to the undersides of these containers can mar floors, furniture or windowsill surfaces. Some pots and saucers, particularly those of glass, can be washed in the dishwasher. Others should be washed by hand in hot sudsy water and rinsed. A plastic or nylon scouring pad, cleanser or baking soda is helpful in removing stubborn deposits which are caused by over-watering and over-fertilizing.

Clear glass domes used to cover plants should be washed in hot sudsy water and rinsed well. Windowsill trays should be kept clean by wiping with a damp cloth. Many times a fungus or other plant disease will develop because of lack of cleanliness of plant accessories.

If you have plant hangers made of jute, never hang them outside, because they cannot withstand weathering. Do not try to clean jute hangers by washing. They will come apart. One of the best hangers to hang outside that can be moved from outside to inside and back out the next spring is a hanger made of trott line.

Plants can be used in many ways to create new effects with space. Hang them in a small, narrow room to make a room look larger. Use floor plants or plants suspended from the ceiling to form a divider in a large open room, or fill a bare corner with a single plant as a focal point.

Add life to the bathroom by putting several plants there. They will thrive on the humidity and don't forget how beautifully plants accent a window that doesn't offer a view.

Place plants in an unused fireplace to make that empty space interesting. Try grouping plants of the same kind with the same color flowers for a spectacular display. Plants grouped in threes and fives in a corner also can give a nice focal point of interest in a room. An herb garden on a windowsill in the kitchen is always handy and gives delightful greenery throughout the winter season.

The useful and decorative ways you can use plants in your home are endless, but be certain to keep plant accessories clean so the effect will not be spoiled.

During the fall and winter season, it is important to keep plant foliage clean. Why not spray them at your kitchen sink or if the plant is large, put it in your shower stall at least once a month so you can keep the foliage free of dust which accumulates when we bring our plants in for the winter.

If you have a homemaking question or problem, you may call 352-8244 or you may write P.O. Box 488, Appomattox, Va. 24522.

Have a good week!

Recipe of the Week
Jennifer's Bean Soup
[Navy Style]

2 lbs. navy or pea beans
6 qts. water
4 cloves of garlic
1 large onion, chopped
1-1½ lbs ham
2 med. potatoes chopped, boiled and mashed with milk and salt
2 carrots shredded
2 stalks of celery chopped fine

Pick over and wash beans well. In a large pan (canner) add beans, water, garlic, (slip 2 cloves on a toothpick so they will be easy to find), onion and ham. Bring to a boil and reduce to a simmer for approximately 1-2 hours until beans are firm but tender. Remove garlic and throw away, remove ham, cool and chop. Return ham to soup with carrots and celery, simmer for about ½ hour. Stir mashed potatoes into soup and salt to taste. Serve with cornbread.

Lots of soup for giving, eating and freezing.

Thanks to Jennifer Midgett for sharing this yummy soup recipe with us.

This is a delicious way to get ready for the nippy fall weather.

Rescue Squad plans first-aid course

The Appomattox County Rescue Squad will offer an Advanced First Aid Course open to all persons, but specifically with the intention of interesting certain ones to join with the local squad.

At the completion of this course all requirements for joining will be complete.

The course will begin Oct. 6 and will continue for 16 weeks. (No classes over the holidays.) Classes will be one night per week - three hours in length. Anyone interested should contact Ray Noble at Traveler's Inn Motel.

Subjects that will be covered are: Child Birth; Treatment of Emergency Respiratory and C.P.R.; Wounds; Poisons; Head and Other Specific Injuries; Specific Injuries to Trunk and Extremities; Drowning and Water Accidents; Dressings and Bandages; Drugs and Their Abuse; Burns; Proper Bandaging and First Aid For Bone and Joint Injuries; Sudden Illnesses; and Emergency Rescue and Extrication.

The Appomattox County Rescue Squad invites all interested parties to take advantage of this opportunity.

MRS. MARGARET LEE displays some of the many ribbons she won at the Five County Fair. (Photo by Bill Sherrod)

Lee wins again

Mrs. Margaret Lee of Appomattox, a member of the Country Lane Extension Homemakers Club submitted entries in competition at the Five County Fair in Farmville in September, winning 44 ribbons and $68.25 in prize money on her entries of canned goods, baked good, horticulture and flowers.

For the 20 blue ribbons she won, she was awarded the Superior Champion Award Trophy and $50.00 for the individual winning the most blue ribbons in the entire fair.

First place blue ribbons she won were for canned pears, lima beans(large), snaps (fancy), blackberries, cherries, corn, crab apple, jelly, peaches, pear pickle, pear preserves, peas (green), pear (Southern), pepper relish, soup mixture, squash, tomato catsup, tomato juice, chocolate cake, cookies (sliced), and dahlia (under 8 inches).

Second-place red ribbons were won for apple sauce, carrots, cucumber mixed pickle, damson preserves, pear, pickle mixture, tomatoes (whole), cherry preserves, plate of hot pepper, gourds and dahlia collection.

Third place white ribbons were won for canned butterbeans, string beans, watermelon rind pickle, layer cake, muffins, "Reflections" (arrangement), dahlia (single).

Fourth place ribbons were won for apple jelly, blackberry jelly, beet pickle, watermelon rind preserves, cup cakes, cake (any mix).

Mrs. Lee has been an extension homemaker for 46 years, and has exhibited at the Five County Fair and State Fair in Richmond for the past 26 years, winning a total of 907 ribbons and ten grand champion awards for most blue ribbons at the Five County Fairs.

Tim Webb assigned

Airman Timothy M. Webb, son of Patricia A. Evans of Route 2, Brookneal, Va., and James M. Webb, of Route 2, Appomattox, Va., has been assigned to Lowry Air Force Base, Colo. after completing Air Force basic training.

During the six weeks at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force.

The airman will now receive specialized instruction in the munitions and weapons maintenance field.

He is a 1982 graduate of Appomattox County High School.

Consumer Sense Notes

Stretch that buck

By Ocie M. Mack
Extension Agent

Stretching The Clothing Dollar

Home sewing of garments has always been one of the classical answers to stretching the clothing dollar. The keys to successful home sewing are based on individuals' ability to select patterns and fabrics suitable to their needs; sewing skills and equipment; and their ability to select patterns and fabrics suitable to each other and flattering to the persons who will wear the garment.

When you buy ready-to-wear clothing, you can try it on to determine whether the garment is right for you. However, this is not possible with patterns and fabrics. It is difficult to study the lines of a drawing and picture than on the person who will wear the garment. The drawings on pattern books often are artists figures with proportions unlike most human figures.

The skills of the home sewer are vitally important. If the finished garment does not have a good look about it and if it does not look professional, it may never be worn and so all the investment in money and time may be lost.

Even with minimum sewing skills, the home sewer can repair and alter some garments successfully. If the sewing equipment is available these skills will help extend the family's clothing dollar by making garments wearable longer and better.

Care and maintenance of garments has got to be considered as part of the cost. It is best to consider upkeep right at the point of buying the garment. Information on the permanent care label makes this much easier. The information on whether it has to be dry cleaned, hand washed, or machine washed and temperature of the water and drying time help to indicate the kinds of care cost to expect.

Storage has to be considered too. Some garments need to be hung in the closet, but another, such as a sweater might need to be folded flat in a drawer to keep it looking its best. Footwear such as boots need special trees to keep them looking good.

So the care needs of the items should be added to the total cost when selecting a garment.

At ACHS

Services are added

Three new services to help students and school officials better understand and interpret scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT / NMSQT) have been introduced by the College Board to coincide with this year's test date of October 19, according to Linda R. Archer, Counselor at Appomattox County High School.

The three services are -

1. A Summary of Answers Report, which indicates how many students in each school, district, or state chose each answer to each question on the test, as compared to all students taking the test nationally.

2. State Summary Reports of Sophomores, which show career choices, intended college majors, ethnic background, and similar demographic data identical to information currently provided for juniors.

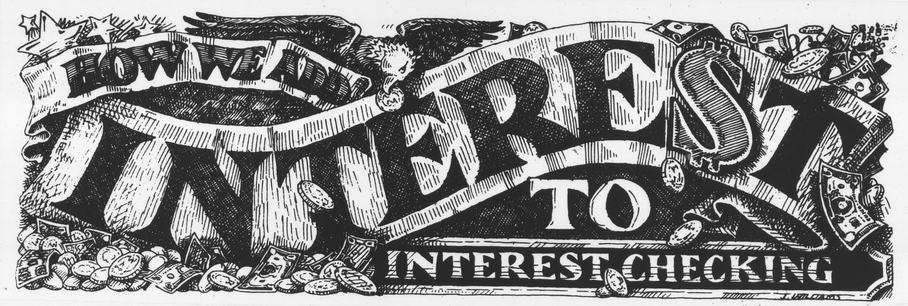
3.A Counselor's Guide to Helping Students Learn from the PSAT/NMSQT, a new publication designed for counselors to help students more clearly grasp the general nature of the tests and the implications of their test results.

Students also receive, before taking the test, a Student Bulletin containing a complete test with an answer key and scoring instructions; a **Report of Student Answers**, in December, including the corrected answers and their own responses and scores; the test booklets so that they can review the original questions; and a booklet, About Your PSAT/NMSQT Scores, that helps them to interpret their test results and to plan for college.

The PSAT/NMSQT is cosponsored by the College Board and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Since 1959, more than 25.5 million students have taken the test, which measures verbal and mathematical abilities.

By taking the test, students discover how they rank among juniors (or sophmores or seniors) across the country. It also provides a preview of the College Board's Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), which many seniors take when they apply for college. The PSAT/NMSQT is also the qualifying test for students wishing to participate in competitions of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Juniors at Appomattox County High School who desire to be tested must register with the guidance counselor. The 1982 fee is $4.25 per student.



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